

WO2005/093165
PCT/2004/012057

CLAIMS AFTER AMENDMENT

[Received by the International Bureau on the 28th of January, 2005 (28. 01. 05): Original claims 1 and 4 are amended. Original claim 3 is withdrawn. Other claim is not changed.]

- [1] (Amended) A pre-cast concrete block for constructing a staircase, which is formed in a triangle pillar, comprising a horizontal stepping surface, a rise surface perpendicular to the stepping surface, and a rear surface which connects diagonally the stepping surface and the rise surface at respective edges thereof, the rear surface having a recess for reducing the weight of the block, the recess having round parts (partially cylindrical recessed surface) with a specified radius at inner corner parts of the recess, and further, displacement prevention grooves in respective side surfaces of the block.
- [2] (No change) A block according to claim 1 further comprising another recess for reducing the weight of the block in the rise surface.
- [3] (Deleted)
- [4] (Amended) A method of constructing a staircase using the staircase block according to claim 1 or 2, comprising the steps of:
a first step of laying a foundation mortar on the tamped face of the inclined land, and temporarily placing the staircase blocks on the foundation mortar;
a second step of producing a gap between the rear surface of the block and the upper surface of the foundation mortar by lifting the minimum angle side of the block by 3-4 cm with a camber;
a third step of leveling the corner of the rise surface of the staircase blocks by hammering it with a sand hammer while checking the horizon with a level placed on the front edge of the stepping surface of the block;
a fourth step of adjusting the slant angle of the stepping surface of the block by pushing and pulling the camber while checking the slant angle with a slant (a slant angle measuring device);
a fifth step of filling-up uniformly the gap produced in the second step with mortar;
sixth and seventh steps of filling-up the trace of the withdrawn camber with mortar, and inserting joint filler into the gap between adjacent blocks; and
a final step of finishing the joint and completing the construction work by cleaning residual sands and dusts.

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EXPLANATION UNDER ARTICLE 19(1)

The contents of claim 3 before the amendment: "further, displacement prevention grooves in respective side surfaces of the block" are added and united to the contents of claim 1 before the amendment. As claim 3 before the amendment is decided as category "A" for any one of two cited references in the International Search Report, the contents of claim 1 after the amendment will be decided as category "A" for these references. Because the contents of claim 1 after the amendment are described in FIG. 1(A) or FIG. 3(1) of the original specification, no new matter is introduced by the amendment.

Though the contents of claim 2 are not changed in appearance by the amendment, the contents of claim 2 will be decided as category "A" for these references, because the contents of claim 1 which is cited by claim 2 will be decided as category "A" after the amendment.

Claim 3 is deleted, because the contents of claim 3 are transferred to claim 1 and disused.

In claim 4, the citation: "according to any one of claims 1 to 3" is changed to "according to claim 1 or 2", as claim 3 is deleted.